CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1624
24 August 2000

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Proposal by the President
on the Programme of Work for the 2000 session of the Conference on Disarmament

Draft decision

The Conference takes the following decisions:

1. The Conference establishes, for the duration of the 2000 session, an Ad Hoc Committee under agenda item 1 entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament" to deal with nuclear disarmament. The Ad Hoc Committee shall exchange information and views on practical steps for progressive and systematic efforts to attain this objective.

The Ad Hoc Committee shall take into consideration all relevant views and proposals present and future and also address questions related to its mandate.

The Ad Hoc Committee shall present a report to the Conference on Disarmament on the progress of its work before the conclusion of the 2000 session.

2. The Conference establishes, for the duration of the 2000 session, an Ad Hoc Committee under agenda item 1 entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament" which shall negotiate, on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator (CD/1299) and the mandate contained therein, a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

The Ad Hoc Committee shall present a report to the Conference on Disarmament on the progress of its work before the conclusion of the 2000 session.

3. The Conference establishes, for the duration of the 2000 session, an Ad Hoc Committee under agenda item 3 entitled "prevention of an arms race in outer space" to deal with the prevention of an arms race in outer space. The Ad Hoc Committee shall examine and identify specific topics or proposals, which could include confidence-building or transparency measures, general principles, treaty commitments and the elaboration of a regime capable of preventing an arms race in outer space.

The Ad Hoc Committee shall take into consideration all relevant views and proposals present and future and also address questions related to its mandate.

The Ad Hoc Committee shall present a report to the Conference on Disarmament on the progress of its work before the conclusion of the 2000 session.

4. The Conference establishes, for the duration of the 2000 session, an Ad Hoc Committee under agenda item 4 entitled "Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons", to negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. These arrangements could take the form of an internationally legally binding instrument.

The Ad Hoc Committee shall take into consideration all relevant views and proposals present and future and also address questions related to its mandate.

The Ad Hoc Committee shall present a report to the Conference on Disarmament on the progress of its work before the conclusion of the 2000 session.

5. The Conference appoints a Special Coordinator under agenda item 6 entitled "Comprehensive programme of disarmament" to seek the views of its Members on the most appropriate way to deal with the questions related to anti-personnel landmines taking into account, inter alia, developments outside the Conference.

6. The Conference appoints a Special Coordinator under agenda item 7 entitled "Transparency in armaments" to seek the views of its Members on the most appropriate way to deal with the questions related to this item.

7. In implementing these decisions, the Special Coordinators shall take into consideration all relevant views and proposals, present and future.

8. The Conference requests the Special Coordinators to present early and regular reports on the outcome of their consultations throughout the session, including before the end of the 2000 session.

9. The Conference also decides to appoint Special Coordinators on the Review of its Agenda, the Expansion of its Membership and its Improved and Effective Functioning. These Special Coordinators, in discharging their duties and functions, will take into account all proposals and views, as well as future initiatives. The Conference requests these Special Coordinators to report to it before the conclusion of the 2000 session.

10. The taking of these decisions contained in paragraphs 5 and 6 does not prejudge the positions of delegations on the eventual establishment of subsidiary bodies on the issues identified, but reflects agreement to advance the Conference's work with a view to reaching consensus. This decision is also taken without prejudice to the rights of Members of the Conference to move forward with positions and proposals already made or to be put forward in the future.

Draft Presidential declaration

In connection with the decision we have just taken on the Programme of Work, I should like, in my capacity as President of the Conference, to stress that the Conference on Disarmament is a disarmament negotiating forum, as stated in Rule of Procedure nr. 1, and that, therefore, the mandates of, and the work to be pursued by, the subsidiary bodies set up by that decision are to be understood under that light. It is also understood that progress in the work of the Conference on Disarmament will continue to be influenced by and responsive to developments in the international strategic scene which affect the security interests of its individual member States.